

The Indiana Dept. Of Veterans' Affairs Update

Photo by Conrad Piccirillo



Mitch Daniels - Governor
Tom Applegate - Director

March 2012

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Edition 2012-1



Director's Comments IDVA 2011 Year-End Report

IDVA has been very busy this past year. In all we processed 12,401 applications for Hoosier veterans' benefits, not including those applications which we had to send back for more information and were not returned. Following is an accounting of each of the applications which were processed by the agency staff:

Remission of Fees for Child of Disabled Veteran	4,205
Remission of Fees for a Purple Heart Recipient	19
Remission of Fees for a former student at the ISSCH	41
Tax Deductions	5,515
Disabled Hoosier Veteran License Plates	1,203
Ex-POW License Plates	2
Purple Heart License Plates	125
Hunting and Fishing Licenses	859
Applications for Military Family Relief Fund Grants	49
Delayed High School Diplomas	37
Requests for Governor's Memorial Certificates	311
Requests to Lower the Flag to Half-Staff	35
Total	12,401

Noelle Wikert, my Administrative Assistant, single-handedly scanned in 5,503 DD Form 214's (active duty discharges) and 475 NGB Form 22's (National Guard discharges). We conducted three conferences during 2011: the Hoosier Women Veterans' Conference, IDVA's Annual CVSO Conference (including the Jon Brinkley Memorial Golf Outing) and the CVSO Fall Conference. We also conducted six (6) New Service Officer Orientations. The IDVA crew attended several National Guard Transition Workshops where we explained state veterans' benefits to over 500 service members returning from deployments, and, sadly, I or a member of my staff also attended the funerals of eight casualties of the Global War on Terror.

Legislative-wise for the current session, the Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission (IDVA Commissioners) proposed extending the eligibility period for the Military Family Relief Fund from the current one year period to three (3) years after the end of their orders and extending the eligibility to National Guard members called to state active duty.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



POSITIONS OPEN AT ST. VINCENT HEALTH

The following is taken, with permission, from the St. Vincent web site.

St. Vincent Health is one of the largest employers in the state of Indiana with more than 13,000 associates, meaning whatever your specialization and whatever your professional goals the sky is the limit.

St. Vincent Health has been serving the health care needs of Indiana residents for more than 126 years. Our health ministry consists of 20 facilities, with a direct presence in 46 Indiana counties. The system is comprised of one quaternary facility, three tertiary hospitals, six critical access hospitals, six specialty hospitals, several joint venture partners and clinical affiliates.

A philosophy of strong partnerships with businesses, communities, physicians, associates and others is regarded by St. Vincent Health as essential to improving the health status of Hoosiers.

As advocates for a healthier society, we have developed strong partnerships with communities and individuals who share compatible values. We believe that health care should be kept local, which is why we have extended our reach beyond urban areas such as Indianapolis, Kokomo, and Anderson, and into rural communities where health services are often scarce.

Please visit our web site to search and apply for opportunities of interest at www.stvincent.org/jobs. St. Vincent Health is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

OPERATION: HIRE A HOOSIER VETERAN

Indianapolis, IN – The sixth annual ‘**Operation: Hire a Hoosier Veteran**’ Career Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Stout Field (Building 9), 2002 S. Holt Road in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 120 employers and Veteran Service Organizations from across the state of Indiana will be participating in the event. Participants will also have access on Wednesday, April 4th to special programming prior to the event, to include: resume and interview development, job fair preparation classes and military to civilian transition services. The goal of the career fair is to share the wealth of resources that our Veterans can provide to the employers in the state of Indiana.

For more information, please look under SPECIAL INFO at: www.inesgr.org , and see the flyers on pages 15 and 16.





Active Duty Strength Figures

The following strength figures were forwarded to me by the Defense Manpower Data Center and reflect the number of men and women from Indiana who were serving on active duty as of 30 November 2011:

Service	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
Active Duty Army	896	9,350	10,246
Active Duty Navy	672	4,527	5,199
Active Duty Marine Corps	232	3,859	4,091
Active Duty Coast Guard	65	413	478
Active Duty Air Force	470	3,039	3,509
Total	2,335	21,188	23,523

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Signs Letter of Support for Homelessness Efforts of *Centerstone*

Last year *Centerstone* applied to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health to establish a *Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF)*. They were encouraged to re-apply this year as *Centerstone* serves as the [Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program \(HPRP\)](#) sponsor, residential & homeless housing provider for persons with mental health needs, PATH homeless outreach program coordination, and *Not Alone* which is a program for combat vets and their families experiencing depression, anxiety, and alcohol and drug addictions. They have garnered the support of local and state veteran organizations.

The SSVF program will address an unmet need for services to very low-income veteran families experiencing housing instability that will be especially helpful for military families returning from recent deployments. The program will assist them in obtaining and/or maintaining stability by providing temporary assistance funds for rent, utilities, and deposits as well as case management to assist in accessing veteran benefits and community supports. The program will serve veteran families in *Bartholomew, Brown, Greene, Johnson, Monroe, Owen, Lawrence and Jackson Counties*. Contact at Centerstone is Stephanie LaFontaine at: Stephanie.LaFontaine@centerstone.org

IDVA is proud to support the efforts of *Centerstone* to alleviate homelessness and its associated problems.



2012 Hoosier Women Veterans' Conference

When: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Where: Lawrence National Guard Armory, Fort Benjamin Harrison, 9920 East 59th Street, Indpls, IN 46216

Time: Registration at 0800; Conference from 0900 to 1500 hours (9 am to 3 pm)

See poster and registration form on pages 17 and 18.



State Approving Agency Updates Did You Know?

The President recently signed into law the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for unemployed veterans. The program will provide retraining for veterans hit the hardest by current economic conditions and is set to begin July 1, 2012.

The VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to unemployed veterans. To qualify, a veteran must:

- Be at least 35 but not more than 60 years old
- Be unemployed (as determined by DoL)
- Have any type of discharge other than dishonorable
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (Post 9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.)
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

The program will be limited to 45,000 participants in fiscal year 2012 and to 54,000 participants from October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2014. Participants will receive up to 12 months of assistance at the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month). Applications will be submitted through DoL and benefits will be paid by VA. Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certification, and it must train the veteran for a high-demand occupation. DoL will also provide employment assistance upon completion of the program to every veteran who participates.



March 2012

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Edition 2012-1

State Approving Agency Updates (*continued*)

Did You Know?

You can receive reimbursement for licensing and certification tests. There is no limit to the number of tests you take, or the number of times you take the test. A recent change, effective August 1, 2011, made Post 9/11 GI Bill students eligible for unlimited reimbursement tests. VA can pay for the cost of the test, up to \$2,000.00, but not other related fees, such as registration fees, preparation guides, or processing fees. You must be eligible and apply for GI Bill benefits, and your entitlement will be charged proportionate to the cost of the test compared to your full-time monthly payment rate. To find out which tests are eligible for reimbursement, visit www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-442-4551.

Did You Know?

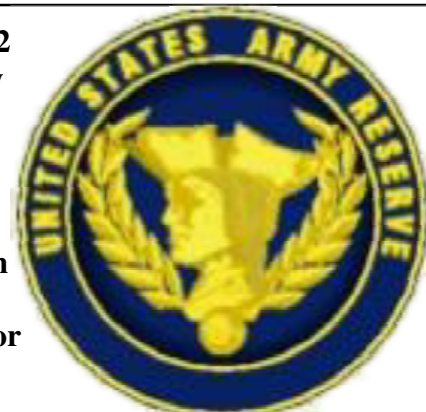
As of Sunday, December 11, 2011, Post 9/11 GI Bill students can now view their entitlement and enrollment information on eBenefits at www.ebenefits.va.gov. Information regarding the student's Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility date, delimiting (or end) date, the amount of entitlement already used, and the amount of remaining entitlement is displayed for those who have a Premium account.

All GI Bill students can still call 1-888-442-4551 (1-888-GI-BILL-1) for more information regarding individual entitlements, or they may "Submit A Question" through the GI Bill website at www.gibill.va.gov.



As of 14 February 2012, Indiana had 1,242 men and women deployed from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve for Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation New Dawn.

Since 9/11/2001 18,722 Hoosiers have been mobilized for the Global War on Terror and another 3,573 for domestic missions, for a total of 22,295 deployments.





House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Lowering the Rate of Unemployment for the National Guard

On Thursday, February 2, 2012 the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, chaired by Representative Marlin A. Stutzman (R-IN), held an oversight hearing regarding the unemployment rate of members of the National Guard. TREA was represented at the hearing by Deputy Legislative Director Mike Saunders.

Currently, the unemployment rate for veterans as a whole is about 5 percent higher than the national average, and it is even higher for Guardsmen. The actual number varies from state to state. For members of the National Guard aged 18-24, the unemployment rate approaches 40 percent nationally, well above the rate for their age cohort as a whole. Among female veterans, the numbers are even higher.

Ted Daywalt, CEO and President of VetJobs.com, a website that connects veterans with veteran-friendly employers (available at www.vetjobs.com), said that on Monday he received twenty requests from South Carolina National Guardsmen for employment services, since they had just been terminated.

He suggested that they were terminated because the Friday before the Governor of South Carolina had announced that South Carolina's Guard units would be deploying to Afghanistan. If National Guardsmen are terminated by their employer prior to deployment, then the Uniform Servicemember Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA) does not apply. It is loopholes like this that TREA suspects will be used more and more often as the National Guard and Reserve take on more of an "Operational Reserve" role in the years to come. We will be vigilant, and we will seek to enhance USERRA protections so these types of abuses do not go unchallenged.

Regarding female veterans, Mr. Daywalt said that, under questioning from Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA) that not all employers look kindly upon women with young children, or young women of child-bearing age and that he tries to direct them towards employers with robust child-care services and flexible work schedules of the type that raising a family often demands.

Mr. Daywalt also suggested that this might be part of the reason female Guard members have a higher unemployment rate than Guard members as a whole: employers know that extra sacrifices will have to be made for them, and they are unwilling (or unable) to make those sacrifices. One last interesting note from the hearing was the suggestion that the healthcare costs of active Guard members and their families be borne by their respective states, instead of employers. Currently, employers have to pay healthcare premiums for deployed Guard members, and health insurance companies are allowed to pocket those premiums while not providing any healthcare.

If Guard members have their healthcare costs subsidized by their respective state, then 35% of the cost of hiring them is eliminated. This can only have a positive effect on the national rate of unemployment among the National Guard. TREA will be looking in to this proposal to see if it merits possible legislation on Capitol Hill during this session. *(From the February 3, 2012 newsletter of the Retired Enlisted Association)*

The Indiana Dept. Of Veterans' Affairs Update

Photo by Conrad Piccirillo



Mitch Daniels - Governor
Tom Applegate - Director

March 2012

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Edition 2012-1

The Indiana Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn Memorial Wall

Indiana has sustained the following casualties since the last
IDVA Update, bringing the total for Indiana to 190



Indiana Army National Guard Sergeant **Brian J. Leonhardt**, 21, of Merrillville, Indiana.

Died on January 6, 2012, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to initial reports, Sergeant Leonhardt died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

He was assigned to the 713th Engineer Company, 81st Troop Command. Army National Guard, Valparaiso, Indiana.



Indiana Army National Guard Staff Sergeant **Jonathan M. Metzger**, 32, of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Died on January 6, 2012, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to initial reports, Sergeant Metzger died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

He was assigned to the 713th Engineer Company, 81st Troop Command. Army National Guard, Valparaiso, Indiana.



Indiana Army National Guard Specialist **Christopher A. Patterson**, 20, of Aurora, Illinois.

Died on January 6, 2012, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Patterson died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

He was assigned to the 713th Engineer Company, 81st Troop Command. Army National Guard, Valparaiso, Indiana.

The Indiana Dept. Of Veterans' Affairs Update

Photo by Conrad Piccirillo



Mitch Daniels - Governor
Tom Applegate - Director

March 2012

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

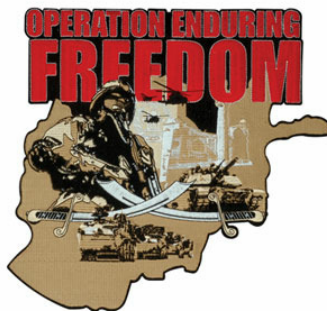
Edition 2012-1



Indiana Army National Guard Specialist **Robert J. Tauteris, Jr.**, 44, of Hamlet, Indiana.

Died on January 6, 2012, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Tauteris died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

He was assigned to the 713th Engineer Company, 81st Troop Command. Army National Guard, Valparaiso, Indiana.





Rules Liberalized for Veterans with Undiagnosed Illnesses from the Original Gulf War. Application Window Extended for Five Years

WASHINGTON – Veterans of the Persian Gulf War with undiagnosed illnesses have an additional five years to qualify for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“Not all the wounds of war are fully understood,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “When there is uncertainty about the connection between a medical problem and military service, Veterans are entitled to the benefit of the doubt.”

A recent change in VA regulations affects Veterans of the conflict in Southwest Asia. Many have attributed a range of undiagnosed or poorly understood medical problems to their military services. Chemical weapons, environmental hazards and vaccinations are among the possible causes.

At issue is the eligibility of Veterans to claim VA disability compensation based upon those undiagnosed illnesses, and the ability of survivors to qualify for VA’s Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

Under long-standing VA rules, any undiagnosed illnesses used to establish eligibility for VA benefits must become apparent by Dec. 31, 2011. The new change pushes the date back to Dec. 31, 2016.

Veterans or survivors who believe they qualify for these benefits should contact VA at 1-800-827-1000.

Further information about undiagnosed illnesses is available online at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar and www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/oefoif/index.asp

VA News Release dated December 29, 2011





March 2012

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Edition 2012-1

VA Deploying 20 New Mobile Vet Centers

Additions to Fleet Will Expand Veterans' Access to VA Services Across U.S., Including Indiana

COLUMBUS, Ohio (January 4, 2012) -- The Department of Veterans Affairs today deployed 20 additional Mobile Vet Centers from the production facility of Farber Specialty Vehicles to increase access to readjustment counseling services for Veterans and their families in rural and under-served communities across the country.

“Mobile Vet Centers allow VA to bring the many services our Vet Centers offer Veterans to all communities, wherever they are needed,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Robert A. Petzel. “VA is committed to expanding access to VA health care and benefits for Veterans and their families, and these 20 new vehicles demonstrate that continued commitment.”

In an event attended by Petzel, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio, representatives of the Ohio congressional delegation, and Veterans service organizations, VA launched the 20 new vehicles to their destinations ranging across the continental United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

These customized vehicles--which are equipped with confidential counseling space and a state of the art communication package—travel to communities to extend VA’s reach to Veterans, Servicemembers and their families, especially those living in rural or remote communities. The vehicles also serve as part of the VA emergency response program.

The 20 new, American-made vehicles will expand the existing fleet of 50 Mobile Vet Centers already in service providing outreach and counseling services. The 50 Mobile Vet Centers were also manufactured by Farber Specialty Vehicles. In fiscal year 2011, Mobile Vet Centers participated in more than 3,600 federal, state and locally sponsored Veteran-related events. The VA contract for the 20 Mobile Vet Centers totals \$3.1 million.

During the announcement event, Petzel also announced that Farber Specialty Vehicles recently won a competitive bid to produce 230 emergency shuttle vehicles for VA over the next five years. The shuttles will provide routine transportation for Veteran patients in and around various metro areas during normal operations, but convert to mobile clinics that will facilitate the evacuation of patients and their care teams during disasters and emergencies. The VA contract for the 230 emergency shuttles totals \$53.5 million.

VA has 300 Vet Centers serving communities across the country, offering individual and group counseling for Veterans and their families, family counseling for military related issues, bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death, military sexual trauma counseling and referral, outreach and education, substance abuse assessment and referral, employment assessment and referral, VA benefits explanation and referral, and screening and referral for medical issues including traumatic brain injury and depression.

Continued on next page



March 2012

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Edition 2012-1

More than 190,000 Veterans and families made over 1.3 million visits to VA Vet Centers in fiscal year 2011.

To find out more about Vet Center services or find a Vet Center in your area, go to www.vetcenter.va.gov.

The 20 new mobile Vet Centers will be based at:

- Birmingham, Ala.
- San Diego, Calif.
- Atlanta, Ga.
- Western Oahu, Hawaii
- Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Evanston, Ill.
- Indianapolis, Ind.
- Baltimore, Md.
- Pontiac, Mich.
- Kansas City, Mo.
- Jackson, Miss.
- Greensboro, N.C.
- Lakewood, N.J.
- Reno, Nev.
- Stark County, Ohio
- Lawton, Okla.
- Ponce, Puerto Rico
- Nashville, Tenn.
- Washington County, Utah
- Green Bay, Wis.

The Indianapolis Mobile Vet Center (MVC) was dedicated on February 9th, 2012 and will be based out of the Indianapolis Vet Center. A schedule for the van will be published once a regular driver has been hired. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming the full time driver for the MVC, call Melanie Harris at:

Indianapolis Vet Center
8330 Naab Road, Suite 103
Indianapolis, IN 46268
Phone: 317-988-1600 Or 877-927-8387
Fax: 317-988-1617

Normal working hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. In an effort to better serve the veteran and family members, upon request Vet Centers will provide services after normal work hours and/or on week-ends.



Medical Care for Newborns of Women Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs has published a regulation officially amending VA's medical benefits package to include up to seven days of medical care for newborns delivered by women Veterans who are receiving VA maternity care benefits.

"The regulation change makes formal the commitment VA made to women Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erik K. Shinseki. "This falls in line with the broad range of services VA is proud to offer women Veterans who have served this nation."

Newborn care includes routine post-delivery care and all other medically necessary services that are in accord with generally accepted standards of medical practice. The effective date of the rule is Dec. 19, 2011, but the regulation applies retroactively to newborn care provided to eligible women Veterans on or after May 5, 2011.

VA has women Veterans program managers at every VA medical center to help women Veterans learn more about the health care benefits they have earned with their service.

For more information about VA healthcare for women Veterans, visit <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov>. For specific information visit <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/healthcare.asp>.

Source: VA News Release 28 Jan 2012.

VA Caregivers Support Line Celebrates First Anniversary

Program Received More Than 25,000 Calls in First Year

WASHINGTON – On Feb. 1, the Department of Veterans Affairs marked the one-year anniversary of the toll-free National VA Caregiver Support Line, 1-855-260-3274. The support line's dedicated staff has helped more than 25,000 Veterans, family members and Caregivers connect to resources and receive access to services they have earned.

"VA recognizes the importance of Caregivers to our Veterans' health and well being. We also recognize the sacrifices the daily care of their beloved Veteran requires," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "It is the care and commitment of Caregivers that allows Veterans with chronic illnesses or severe injuries to remain in the homes they defended, surrounded by the loved ones they hold dear. I am proud we have been able to help so many Caregivers in this first year of the support line's operation."

Since the program began, the Caregiver Support Line has received more than 25,000 calls and email queries through VA's main page www.va.gov. Local Caregiver Support Coordinators at each VA medical center have responded to more than 8,000 referrals. Callers to the support line are spouses, children, other family members and friends of Veterans as well as Veterans themselves. Caregiver Support Line responders listen to the callers and assess how best to offer support, appropriate direction, and connection to needed resources.

Continued on next page



March 2012

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Edition 2012-1

Responders serve as a resource for Caregivers by providing guidance, education on VA programs and benefits, information on community resources and emotional support through brief supportive counseling, if needed. The support line responders can also connect callers to VA's other support lines such as the VA Veteran Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255) and Coaching Into Care Line (1-888-823-7458) when these lines better meet the callers needs.

"Caregivers play such a critical role in the lives of our nation's Veterans, often at great cost to themselves. VA recognizes this sacrifice and the Caregiver Support Line is just one way we seek to support Caregivers," said Deborah Amdur, VA's Chief Consultant for Care Management and Social Work. "Caregivers often give so much of themselves and the social workers on the support line recognize this. They understand the challenges faced by Caregivers and are able to offer a listening ear, education and connection with needed resources." If a Caregiver or Veteran who calls the line needs additional guidance, a referral is made to their local Caregiver Support Coordinator, located at every VA medical center, who is the key contact for Caregivers at VA and an expert in VA and community programs available to Veterans and their Family Caregivers.

Veterans and Caregivers can reach the VA Caregiver Support Line toll free at 855-260-3274. Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., ET, and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., ET on Saturdays. VA also features a Web page, www.caregiver.va.gov, with general information on other Caregiver support programs available through VA and the community.

Community Support for Troops and Family Suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Newsletter from the VA's National Center for PTSD)

In December 2011, US Troops were withdrawn from Iraq, joining thousands of previously deployed comrades who have already returned home to civilian life. All who experience war are changed by it in some way; most troops and families will experience reintegration challenges. Some will also develop mental health issues that need to be addressed. About 50% of Veterans will seek care at VA. Others, and their family members, will seek services in the community. This update is to remind all of us that war continues to affect troops and families even after they are reunited.

Here are some tips and free trainings to make this transition smooth.

In Case of Crisis

The [Veteran Crisis Line](http://www.veteran-crisis-line.org) is available 24/7 to assist family, friends and Vets. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, [chat online](http://www.veteran-crisis-line.org), or text 838255.

Learn What to Expect

Deployment affects the entire family. Browse our [Return from War section](#) to learn more on:

- ☐ Common reactions to expect
- ☐ Problems to watch out for, like PTSD
- ☐ Effects on family and work
- ☐ What you can do to help



Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices by flying them to Washington, DC to reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to WWII survivors along with other veterans who are terminally ill. *Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, Inc.*, a regional nonprofit, volunteer organization, is a new hub of this growing Network. It is established to fly and escort NE Indiana WWII veterans directly from Fort Wayne to Washington DC. Private motor coaches will be standing by to transport them to their Memorial, as well as other memorial stops throughout the day. Then...back to the airport for a flight home the same evening.

Why Honor Flight?

The World War II Memorial in Washington DC was completed and dedicated in May 2004. It is a long overdue "Thank You" to the men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedom, and a memorial to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It was so long overdue that many WWII survivors have been unable to visit their memorial due to the barriers of advanced age, such as health matters, stamina, finances, or other travel impediments. Honor Flight provides a way for many of these veterans to visit and reflect at their memorial.

WWII veterans pay nothing for this trip. They have given enough. Honor Flights are funded by community donations from generous individuals, corporations, foundations, and other groups who wish to be an important part of honoring these heroes. The cost is also defrayed in part by Honor Flight volunteer "guardians," who not only make a substantial donation, but honor veterans in a very personal way, escorting them and being there to help as needed throughout the day.

HONOR FLIGHT NORTHEAST INDIANA

Why Northeast Indiana?

Travel is even more difficult for veterans who live in areas where direct commercial flights to DC are not available. In areas such as NE Indiana, charter flights are the answer.

Why Now?

There is already a waiting list of WWII veterans in the NE Indiana region who have applied for an Honor Flight trip. Underscoring the urgency of this program is the unfortunate fact that time is limited for our WWII heroes. **WWII veterans are dying at a rate of more than 1000 every day.**

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed as guardians for flights, for help with ground operations, fund raising, and various other administrative tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please email honorflightnei@gmail.com or call our contact number below.

What Can We Do To Help?

Donations*

Donations are critical. These flights of honor are impossible without help from generous donors.

Please make checks payable to:
Honor Flight NE Indiana
Mail to:
PO Box 5
Hunterstown, IN 46748

Prayers

Whether or not you can make a donation or volunteer your time, we ask for your prayers.

Prayers for guidance and success with this program, and especially for safe travel for our veterans and volunteer guardians.

Please contact us about in kind donations.

** Exception—Attention WWII veterans: We do not solicit nor wish to accept personal donations from WWII veterans. You have given enough. This trip is a small token of appreciation from those of us you fought to protect. Please allow us that privilege.*

WWII Veterans

If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit your memorial and would like to join other veterans for an Honor Flight to DC, please submit an application. Veterans are selected according to the date the application is received.

Applications

Veteran and volunteer applications are available on our website: www.hfnei.org

Or contact us by email: honorflightnei@gmail.com or phone (260) 633-0049.

Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax professional for advice.

Thank you for your consideration.



OPERATION: HIRE A HOOSIER VET

OPERATION: HIRE A HOOSIER VETERAN CAREER FAIR

Indianapolis, IN - The sixth annual 'Operation: Hire a Hoosier Veteran' Career Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at Stout Field (Building 9), 2002 S. Holt Road in Indianapolis, Indiana. We anticipate over 120 Employers and Veteran Service Organizations from across the state of Indiana will be participating in the event. Participants will also have access to special programming prior to the event including: resume and interview development, job fair preparation classes and military to civilian transition services. The goal of the career fair is to share the wealth of resources that our Veterans can provide to the employers in the state of Indiana.

For more information, please go to: www.inesgr.org

All Service Members and Veterans are invited to participate.

- Please pre-register at www.inesgr.org
- Please bring picture identification
- Bus line accessible
- **Dress for Success and bring plenty of up-to-date resumes**

All Employers who have open positions are invited to participate.

- This is a complimentary event
- Registration will start in late January 2012
- Please pre-register at www.inesgr.org



CAREER PREP WORKSHOP FOR VETERANS

*Get ready for the
Operation: Hire a Hoosier Vet
Job Fair that takes place on
April 18th! (inesgr.org)*



- DATE:** Wednesday, April 4th, 2012
- TIME:** 9:00am – 3:00pm
- TOPICS:** Improve your résumé, search and apply for jobs online, research companies, network with employers, and prepare for interviews
- WHERE:** 38th Infantry Division National Guard Armory, 3912 W. Minnesota Street, Indianapolis
- COST:** FREE!! Breakfast and lunch included!
- REGISTER:** <http://hireahoosiertvetprepworkshop-autohome.eventbrite.com/>

Register to guarantee a spot! Walk-ins are welcome, but participation is limited to 120.

*Sponsored by Ball State University, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, and the Military Family Research Institute
Contact Jennifer Haley at jhaley@bsu.edu or 765-285-1008 for more information.*



**2007 Purple
Heart Recipient,
Heather Holden**



**2009 Torchbearer
Award Winner
Lt Gen, USMC (Ret.)
Carol Mutter**



2011 HWVC



**SFC Angie M. Roman
Indiana Army NG
Waveland, Mississippi
Hurricane Katrina**



**Sgt Jeannette Winters
Age 25
Died 9 Jan 2002
Pakistan**



**Smn App Shayna
A. Schnell
Age 19
Died 1 Oct 2007
U.A. Emirates**

**Sr Amn Ashton
Goodman
Age 21
Died 26 May
2009
Afghanistan**



**Brig. Gen Margaret S.
Washburn
2010 Torchbearer Award
Winner**



HOOSIER WOMEN VETERANS' CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 14, 2012

9 a.m. To 3 p.m.

Lawrence National Guard Armory

Fort Benjamin Harrison

9920 East 59th Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

Call Ashley Roberts (317) 232-3919

or visit www.in.gov/dva to register

HOOSIER WOMEN VETERANS' CONFERENCE 2012

**Who - ALL WOMEN FROM INDIANA,
PAST OR PRESENT, WHO
SERVED IN THE MILITARY**

What: Conference for Women Veterans.
Sponsored in part by the Indiana Department
of Veterans Affairs and the Federal
Department of Veterans Affairs, VA
Healthcare System of Indiana.

When: Saturday, April 14th, 2012

Where: Lawrence National Guard Armory
9920 E. 59th Street
Ft. Ben Harrison,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

\$5.00 cost for lunch, payable at the door.

Cash or check.

Registration starts at 8 a.m.

Event begins promptly at 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.



Please Print
First name: _____ MI: _____

Last name: _____

Age: _____ Branch of service: _____

Period of service: _____

Contact information to notify in case of any changes:
Phone number: _____

Email address: _____
Please mail or fax to: Indiana Dept of Veterans Affairs
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Fax: 317-232-7721

**Please RSVP by:
4 April 2012**

Women Veterans come and find out about your benefits.

If you are in need of transportation to the event or have any questions please call: Ashley Roberts at (317) 232-3919 or Summer Tacy at (317) 234-5658 or e-mail ASRoberts@dva.in.gov or sgtacy@dva.in.gov